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## CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

### Report of the Buffalo Convention of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union.

BY DR. A. B. MASON.

[Continued from page 774.]

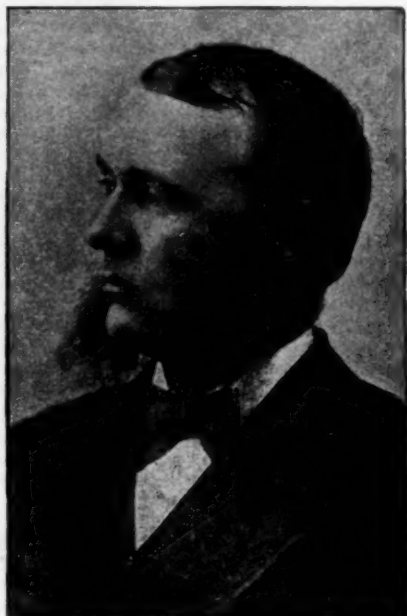
[As this report is not as full as it was hoped to make it, we have decided to omit all reference to particular days or sessions when any paper was read, etc., and simply go ahead and publish all we have on hand concerning the convention proceedings.—EDITOR.]

all point to one object, and that is, to advance and protect the interests represented.

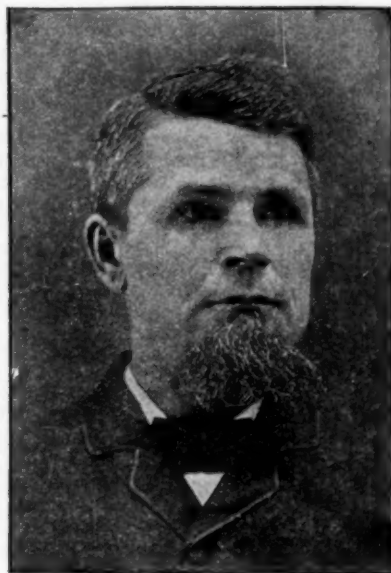
The existing state of things to-day demand just such organizations, and no class can stand aloof and expect to successfully combat surrounding influences without organization. The producing element to which we belong should be especially interested in the solution of this problem, but unfortunately, we are, as yet, in a chaotic state, drifting about on the sea of circumstances, hoping for the good that "might have been" but never comes.

The conditions that present themselves to the bee-keepers of the United States to-day are not theories, but plain, every-day facts, and you can scarcely refer to a copy of any of our bee-periodicals that does not contain an article bearing on some of the evils now existing. The theories adduced have been more numerous than the colors of the rainbow; some claiming that it is due to over-production, while another that it is under-consumption, others that adulteration is the cause, while, last but not the least of all, improper distribution is responsible.

The first course of a physician with a diseased patient is a proper diagnosis of the case, and we claim that the diseased



P. H. Elwood.



A. E. Manum.

Mr. Geo. W. Brodbeck, of California, sent the following paper:

#### Co-Operation Among Bee-Keepers.

We are living in an age when the presentation of practical problems is commanding more attention than at any time in the world's history. We meet with evidences of this on every hand; the labor agitations, the manufacturing combines, the various exchanges and other co-operative organizations,

condition of our industry has been diagnosed minutely, and every one of the symptoms referred to proved to exist, and if this is true, we have reached the most serious stage of our industry, for if adulteration exists to the extent claimed, and continued, what will be the result? If there is an over-production and the output on the increase, where is our remedy? If it is under-consumption in one section and vice versa in another, how are we going to equalize this? If over-production is not more than the result of improper distribution,

where is our machinery to relieve this condition? The remedial stage is the most difficult of all to the experimental physician, but to the man of experience the selection of a remedy is not an experiment, for positive results always follow positive remedies.

In our present condition we also have a positive remedy, and, while we do not claim it a "cure-all" for every ill that besets the bee-industry, we do claim it has proved its efficacy in the cure of the diseased state of kindred industries, and we do not hesitate to second the advocacy of co-operation as a positive remedy for our own relief, and it is evident that what it has done for other producers it can do for us.

Co-operation in this State has completely revolutionized former methods in the disposal of the various industrial products. The thrifty, wide-awake producer, who, a few years ago, saw nothing but disaster staring him in the face; with the grip of the middle man tightening his grasp more and more as the years past by; with a far distant market; a perishable product, prohibitory freight rates, and many other seemingly insurmountable difficulties, all of which have been overcome by the indomitable will and perseverance of the California fruit power.

The California Bee-Keepers' Exchange, altho of recent growth, is proving a potent factor in this, its first season's experience, in the upholding of prices, reducing to a minimum the cost of supplies to its membership, and instilling a feeling of protection that never existed before; and we predict that if the business of this organization is conducted in accordance with the outlined footsteps of the California fruit-growers, like success is sure to follow.

Co-operation has its opponents as well as exponents, and there will be those present who will take decided issue with the views presented, but the truth will always bear investigation.

Opposition to co-operation as a rule is due to two sources—misinterpretation of its objects, and selfishness. The true spirit of co-operation is the hand that assists his neighbor, and rejoices in the welfare of others as well as his own. The selfishness and short-sightedness displayed by the refusal to assist in the disposal of our neighbors' product is beyond comprehension, for the result is sure to enhance the value of our own. We all know that some of our most successful producers are incapable salesmen, and the depreciation in prices is often due to this very incompetency. That improper distribution has much to do with our existing difficulties is undoubtedly true, for the ratio of honey consumption in the United States is less than one pound to an individual, and nothing but co-operation can correct this.

Co-operation is not a selfish project for it only recognizes the individual in his product, and the product in accordance with the grade, and it is the only method that harmonizes all antagonistic interests.

The feasibility of this plan, as stated, has been fully demonstrated in practice, and we firmly believe that until the bee-keepers of this country band together in the form of local and other associations, the existing state of hopeless expectation will positively continue, and the demoralization of prices will be repeated every successive season.

The formation of local associations results in the concentration of the interests of many, the selection of the best material at hand to supervise the whole, the buyer deals with one instead of many, all grading is equalized as well as prices, and by systematic methods in course of time establish such a reputation that results in a direct demand for their product instead of glutting the markets by improper distribution. Then as "great trees from little acorns grow," so shall we also witness the growth and formation of other kindred associations as the natural development of the local organizations' demand.

The absurdity of beginning at the head instead of the foundation has been fully experienced in the pioneer work of other associations, and while we fully endorse the establishment of a National Exchange, as previously stated we can not expect success to follow such an enterprise until local, district and State associations demand it.

"Hope, tho, never dies," and the inspiration following the birth of "The Infant," at Lincoln, Nebr., a few months ago is reviving the dormant faculties of a great many who had fallen into the slough of despair. With hope renewed all eyes are turned towards this new star of destiny for deliverance from present bondage.

The infant development of this United States Bee-Keepers' Union will depend very much on the atmospheric surroundings, and the generous diet given it in the form of financial support. We feel fully assured of the first in the absolute confidence we have in the faculty who have it in charge; the enlargement and scope of its work depends entirely upon the

individual bee-keeper, and it is for us to make it and mould it to suit our varied wants.

As a closing theme, and one bearing on the subject of co-operation, I desire to outline a field of operation for your present or future consideration, and this is the establishment, in connection with the present organization, of a Bee-Keepers' Information Bureau.

The object would be to supply its members with all information at hand in regard to matters bearing on this industry. The establishment of agencies in the various States and centers of business. The agencies to glean information for, to supervise, and disseminate matters of interest to the members from the central office. The following would be some of the benefits accruing to the participating membership:

A rating of individual responsibility; the possibility of securing such information pertaining to members, or of any one dealing in our product; the amount of honey produced in every section of the United States, by the statistics available the centers of over-production and under-production could be readily determined. It would be an effective agency in ferreting out and prosecuting the adulterator, when once this organization has secured national legislation, and we can never expect to suppress this foe to our industry until this is accomplished.

GEO. W. BRODBECK.

Mr. D. N. Ritchey—It is only by co-operation that we can sell our honey successfully. If one locality has a good crop and another a slim crop, co-operation is needed.

O. L. Hershiser—If we had some committee that could recommend good firms it would be a benefit.

Dr. Miller—The journals are already doing something of the kind. Any one that is not responsible is not allowed to quote.

Mr. Doolittle—If this is to be a corporation to aid in putting up the prices of honey, then it is no better than the old trusts that put up the prices of oil and sugar.

Mr. Abbott—It is not for the purpose of putting up prices, but for the sake of getting better prices by securing better distribution. For instance, there is the fruit exchange. If there is a poor crop in some locality it is known, and the surplus of some other locality is directed there instead of allowing the surplus to accumulate in some trade-center like Chicago.

Mr. P. H. Elwood, of New York, read the following paper on

### Marketing Honey.

During the past 25 years great progress has been made in the production of both comb and extracted honey. During the same period no progress has been made in marketing the same. Indeed, it may be truly said that we have suffered a retrograde movement, for while the same system of marketing is in practice now as 25 years ago, it is but poorly adapted to the largely increased production. Then, with a comparatively small production honey would sell itself at good prices as soon as exposed for sale, and the chief concern of the bee-keeper was to secure a crop. Now, his chief concern is to get a remunerative price after he has his crop ready for market.

Prices are too low. With the average bee-keeper prices are below the cost of production. Certain enthusiastic individuals may assail this statement, but it is true, and not difficult to prove.

The average bee-keeper is intelligent, and economical in business and living expenses, and were his profits good he would not forever remain poor, which seems to be his lot.

Again, it may be said that in most parts of our country bee-keepers can count on but one full crop in four years. On this crop there may be a profit. The other three crops, of which one may pay expenses, will more than eat up the profits of the full year. I write this because there is an impression among honey-dealers that there is an immense profit in the bee-business. Indeed, commission men have coolly informed me that the price of honey was too high; that if it was lower they could sell more easily and in larger quantities, and make more money. Commission men cannot be depended upon to maintain prices unless some association of bee-keepers shall bring delinquents to account for their selling under the market price. This would be very satisfactory to the better class of middlemen.

In June a dealer in his market report in a prominent bee-paper made the statement that the honey crop was immense everywhere, and consequently prices would be very low. This was before any surplus was gathered in the great basswood regions of Vermont, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota. At the time all that was back of this statement east of the Rocky Mountains was a few days' good work on clover in some of the central States. Our journals should not be open to such reck-



less fabrications, put forth to injure our business. We must gather our own statistics of the honey crop, and not depend upon others.

We can learn something if we will from the experiences of others. The peach industry of Delaware was nearly destroyed by the growers sending their crops to commission men without proper restrictions and safeguards. The result was that many markets were glutted, and prices went so low that farmers began to tear up their orchards. Now, since an association has been formed for securing an intelligent oversight of the market, the grower is getting some remuneration for his labor.

California bee-keepers—a group of specialists—were among the first to recognize the necessity of securing by united action a controlling voice in the pricing and selling of their products, and they have formed an association for that purpose. They have acted wisely. The weak point in the scheme is that the whole country is not included. Eastern honey, I fear, will be used to break to pieces the association. It is for Eastern bee-keepers to say whether they will establish an intelligent oversight over their markets so that the products of the apiary may be properly distributed, and so that the cost of production, together with the supply and demand, may act as controlling factors in establishing prices.

We are not alone in our trouble. The maximum price of butter in New York city is daily fixed *without discussion*, by a committee of five members of the New York Mercantile Exchange. The same method of establishing the price is in practice in Chicago and Elgin.

What can bee-keepers do for immediate relief to overstocked markets, and for the consequent low prices? Keep more of your honey at home. In other words, cultivate the home market. In the settled parts of the country every bee-keeper can sell his own crop about home, up to a ton or more. There is no need of cutting prices in doing this. Indeed, this is the surest way of destroying your home market. Could bee-keepers be induced to do this there would shortly be a scarcity of honey in our centers of trade.

This Union can be of great benefit in several ways in securing better markets, viz.:

1st. It can in season disseminate reliable information as to the yearly crop. This, with the cost of producing, must be the basis of prices.

2nd. It can appoint a committee of producers and middlemen to meet as soon as reliable information of the crop can be secured, to name prices that should prevail in equity to all concerned. Certain safeguards could be named to assist producers and middlemen in maintaining these prices.

3rd. This would necessitate the appointment of another committee of similar make-up to formulate brief rules for the uniform grading of honey. This committee ought to take at least six months to make its report, and the same to be acted upon at the next session of the Union.

4th. The greatest benefit to the honey market will be obtained by the success of this Union in suppressing the adulteration of liquid honey. I have no doubt but that the consumption of extracted honey would be increased tenfold if adulteration could be stopt. As glucose and its allied product—grape-sugar—are only used for purposes of adulteration, and are injurious to health, I suggest that the Union make a very strong effort to have our legislators classify them with tobacco, beer and whiskey, and impose a very heavy internal revenue tax upon them. Doubling the price of glucose would of itself very much discourage the makers of spurious honey.

5th. Prosecuting and publishing dishonest dealers will help matters very much. We are friends of the honest middleman. He can market our honey better and more cheaply than we, and we cannot dispense with his services. The exact opposite may be said of the dishonest one. This Union should request that in all cases of complaint of insufficient returns, commission men shall permit our Secretary to inspect their books. No honest man will refuse this so long as we keep an honorable man in this office. We should also request that receipt be promptly returned for all goods consigned commission men; also that monthly statements of account be made.

All of which is respectfully submitted, not because of any originality of thought, but with the hope that something in this communication may stimulate thought and provoke discussion.

P. H. ELWOOD.

Mr. Abbott—I don't object to the farmers' honey. My honey gains by comparison with the farmer-honey.

G. W. Bell—I take honey to the editors of local newspapers, and they give me notices that bring lots of custom.

E. A. Sturtevant—My crop is sold by a dealer in Boston, who puts a dozen Chinamen on the streets. He dresses them

in white jackets, and they carry the honey in a tray on top of the head.

W. F. Marks—The label plan worked well with our local association for a year or two, and then some of the members became careless and trouble began. In our little association we have a honey-grader, and he grades and puts a label on each package; he puts it on in such a manner that the package cannot be opened without breaking the label.

Wm. Couse—We could never do anything in this line without inspection. Each man would say that his honey was the best. In buying grain the dealers get samples from different parts of the country, and then compare them and decide what the different grades shall be. We would have to do the same thing with honey.

Mr. Manum, of Vermont, not being able to be present, sent this paper:

### Profitable Feeding of Bees.

Much has been written upon the subject of feeding bees. And many experiments have been made by bee-keepers with varied success. I am aware that any one method will not prove successful with every bee-keeper, since localities vary so greatly, as well as our methods of management. I can, therefore, only speak for myself and my locality, taking my market into consideration. I have no market for extracted honey, hence I work entirely for comb honey.

The subject of "feeding back" extracted honey for the purpose of completing unfinished sections has often appeared in print. We have been told by some writers that feeding back is unprofitable, while by others we are told that it can be made profitable. Here comes in the difference in locations and markets. If one has a good market for extracted honey at a fair price, it would not be profitable to feed back any extracted honey he may secure.

In the 25 years that I have experimented in feeding bees, I have been both successful and unsuccessful in making the feeding back of extracted honey profitable. In these 25 years I have learned something regarding the preparation of colonies to be fed, the kind of feeder best adapted for the purpose, and the preparation of the honey that is to be fed. Until within five years my success in feeding back was somewhat varied, but for the past five years I have made it profitable to feed by extracting from a portion of my unfinished sections and feeding the honey thus taken to colonies especially prepared for doing the work of completing sections, thus transferring the honey from a portion of the unsalable sections to another like portion, thereby making the latter portion marketable with no expense except my own labor of extracting and feeding. I find that the shrinkage by the transfer of the honey from one set of sections to the other is very slight. The greatest loss is due to the process of extracting, or, in other words, to the adherence of honey to the extractor and other receptacles.

I first prepare the colony by filling the brood-chamber with combs well filled with brood or sealed honey, or both. The unfinished sections are then placed on the hive, 2, 3 or 4 tiers high, according to the strength of the colony. Directly on these sections I place a larger feeder capable of holding 16 pounds of honey. The honey is first diluted with warm water, and then poured into the feeder just at night for the first, and if all works well it will need refilling in the morning. I find for the best results the honey should be a little thicker than it sometimes is when first gathered, for if fed too thin the sections when capped will have a watery appearance; while, on the other hand, if fed too thick, the work will progress slowly, and the cappings will be more or less soiled. Therefore, in my case, when I misjudge the duration of the honey-flow, and unfortunately put on more sections than the bees are able to finish, I find it necessary to do some extra work, such as extracting and feeding back. In this I find it more profitable than to carry over these unfinished sections, or to sell the honey in the liquid form.

But the most satisfactory and profitable feeding with which I have had experience, is spring and summer feeding—stimulative feeding, so-called—but more especially summer feeding.

Early in the season (I mean the breeding season) the apiarist should see to it that the bees are well provided with stores near the brood. This may be honey or sugar syrup. Our colonies should never want for ample supplies at this season. In order to avoid this, I aim to feed moderately, or enough to keep a supply of uncapped honey in the combs until the bees commence to gather honey. If there is an interval at any time during the honey season between any of the sources from which we get our surplus, as there usually is between fruit-bloom and raspberries, and between raspberries and clover, I feed moderately, that the brood-combs may be

kept well filled, that there may be no vacancy in the brood-combs to be filled with the next flow of honey. The object is to keep the brood-combs constantly filled with either brood or honey, so that all the white honey gathered may be stored in the sections. If this practice is kept up judiciously through the honey season, we are sure to catch all the honey in the sections; and later on we can transfer it to our purses in a greatly reduced form.

A. E. MANUM.

Mr. Greiner—I extract the honey from those sections that are less than two-thirds full, and use the honey in feeding back to secure the completion of those that are nearly finished.

Ten members had tried feeding back. Four would continue the practice.

W. Z. Hutchinson—I have fed back thousands of pounds of extracted honey, and have always found it profitable to feed it for securing the completion of unfinished sections. It is only under peculiar circumstances that it can be fed at profit when the bees have the comb to build. Black bees are the best for this purpose; hybrids next best; then dark Italians, and golden Italians no good whatever. There is a great difference in individual colonies of the same variety. Some will store the honey rapidly, but are slow at capping, others store it slowly but cap it quickly. Others do good work, make it nice and smooth, while some are very rough in finishing up the work. All of these characteristics are carefully noted and written down upon the hive-cover, and, as the sections are lessened in number and some colonies discarded, those are dropped that do the poorest work. About a quart of hot water is added to 10 pounds of honey. I do not always wait until every section is finished before taking off the case. If there are one or two in the corners that are unfinished, the case comes off just the same, and the sections are taken out and sorted, and when there is a case of unfinished ones it goes back on the hives. Hot weather is needed to succeed at feeding back. It is likely that there are locations where it would not be profitable. In Michigan we have a dearth of honey from the close of basswood, and sometimes from the close of clover until buckwheat, a period of a month or six weeks in which the weather is very hot and no honey is coming in. If rightly managed at this time the feeding back of honey to complete unfinished sections can be made very profitable. I have secured as many as four pounds of increase in the weight of comb honey from the feeding of five pounds, altho the general average is about two pounds from the feeding of three.

F. Danzenbaker—I put 15 or 20 unfinished sections at the entrance of a hive at night, and in the morning the combs are empty.

Mr. E. Kretschmer, of Iowa, furnishes the next paper on

### The Shipping of Comb Honey.

That man never gets too old to learn, proves true to many of us. Altho I had shipped tons of honey prior to 1893, it was during the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, whilst in charge of the Iowa honey exhibit, that several heretofore unnoticed changes in the packing of comb honey presented themselves, and which during the second installment of honey for that exposition was put to practical test. Prior to the time named, altho we packed the honey with due care, I had no knowledge of the actual condition in which it arrived at its destination.

Altho the first shipment of honey for the Columbian Exposition was packed with great care, many of the cases, when unpacking them at the fair grounds, were not in as good condition as we desired they should be; in some of the cases it appeared as if only a single comb had become detached from the section, and in the moving of the crates, this loose comb had fallen against the next comb and knocked it off the section, and the force of the two combined against the next, had broken it out likewise, until the entire row of honey from the glass to the back of the case, was broken down; the leaking honey, altho retained in the case, soaked into the wood of the next sections, and also damaged these.

In the second shipment for the Iowa exhibit we effectually prevented the above-described damages by constructing the shipping-cases wider and deeper: We placed a sheet of manilla paper in the bottom with the edges neatly turned up, forming a shallow pan; within this pan we nailed small triangular strips on which we placed the sections of honey, and between the several rows inserted wood separators, in the same manner as in the supers. Whilst the use of paper pans in the shipping-cases, and strips of wood under the sections is now well known to many, it may be a matter of surprise to them to know that they are not yet in general use, and the writer found it necessary to write numerous letters to fully explain their uses.

Separators in shipping-cases are, I think, not yet very much used, but I find that if separators are used, a comb

broken from a section is confined to the space within that section; it cannot break or deface the next adjoining section, whereas, if the separators are not added, the entire row is frequently broken down. Wood separators are cheap, costing less than two cents for a case, whilst their benefit is more than ten-fold. I therefore think that no shipping-case is complete without the separators.

I have been to some expense, both at the World's Fair and while visiting numerous honey markets, to ascertain the most desirable size, form and detailed construction of shipping-cases, and it appears that commission merchants and retail dealers in honey prefer a case holding 24 sections, single-tier high, with glass on one side from 2 to 3 inches wide, with the top boards fitting between the front cleat and the back, so as to hold the top in place while retailing from the case, and so as not to show the joint on the front or glass cleat.

In this paper I will not say where, or to whom to ship, but outline more fully the form of shipping-cases, how to fill them, and how to forward them, and when, and thereby prepare the way for a fruitful discussion.

As already stated, the 24-section case, showing four sections through the glass, seems to be preferred, and therefore we should furnish the size and form desired. In construction the cases should be light, the cleats for holding the glass should be grooved, not rabbeted, and the glass slid into these grooves so that, should the glass break, the grooves will retain the pieces in position. Having placed the paper pan and wood strips in the bottom, select 24 sections of honey, as nearly alike as you can; place four average sections near the glass, top up, that is, in the same position as they were on the hive; if inverted some open cell is liable to leak, and the honey running over the white face of the comb mars the beauty of its appearance. Should there be a little space endwise, make them tight with little wedges at the end; next drop in a wood separator, which should be as wide as the height of the sections. In this manner fill the case, wedge up the back of the sections so they are tight sidewise, lay on another sheet of paper, which should be large enough to project a little with the edges, then fasten on the top, preferably with small screws.

Goods shipped by express must be speedily loaded and unloaded, and are consequently not handled with the same care as freight shipments, where ample time is usually taken to load and unload; therefore honey shipped by freight arrives usually in better condition than when shipped by express; but express shipments go through in less time than shipments by freight, and if as a matter of speed honey has to be shipped by express, I find that single shipping-cases without being crated or connected with other cases, go by express in better condition, and are handled more carefully, than heavier crates; but shipments by freight or in wagons should have 6 or 8 cases crated together in open crates so as to show the glass and honey through the openings, with a liberal supply of straw under them. The addition to the directions to so load that the edge of the comb should be towards the locomotive, is, I find, never regarded, as the crates are usually so placed to fit the space in the car; but the top of the crate should have in large, plain letters this direction: "THIS SIDE MUST BE UP," which is usually regarded.

In hauling, I advise the use of vehicles with springs; if such cannot be had, a liberal supply of straw under the crates, and slow driving would be desirable.

Do not attempt to ship comb honey great distances in warm weather, nor when the honey is liable to freeze, as it is more liable to break and leak. I well remember how a careless shipment in hot weather nearly ruined the honey market of a city; the honey arrived badly broken and the cases leaking; the dealer, in his eagerness to dispose of it, labeled it: "Comb honey, 8 cents;" the market reports of the local paper next quoted: "Comb honey, 8 cents per pound;" this quotation spread to near-by places, and for months this was the prevailing price.

E. KRETCHMER.

Mr. Greiner—I find honey less likely to break in shipment in warm than in cold weather, as the combs are less brittle.

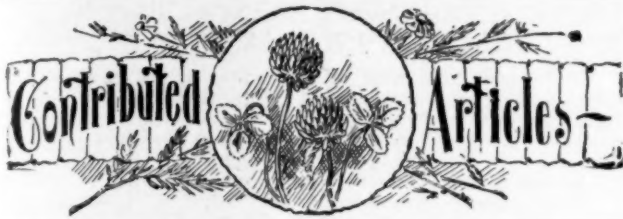
Capt. J. E. Hetherington—I pack honey in one end of a car with six inches of hay underneath, and I cover it with a cloth to keep off the dust and cinders. I think that the combs are fastened more securely in the oblong section. We do not put our cases in large crates. We get better results by not crating. The dealers of New York certainly know how to ship honey, and they never crate the cases.

Mr. Ritchie—I bought 500 pounds of honey of a New York dealer, and it came in bad shape. In shipping small lots I find that the large crates are an advantage.

S. A. Niver—It's the trucking with two-wheel trucks that does the mischief. Where four-wheel trucks are used it is all right.

(Continued next week.)





### Does It Pay to Move Bees to Other Fields in the Storing Season?

BY A. F. BROWN.

On page 611, W. T. Richardson puts this question, and answers it by giving his experience in moving bees to the bean-fields of California.

Having only recently given an article touching on items connected with migratory bee-keeping, I will add something more to the subject by giving here some of the successes, as well as failures, I have encountered in moving bees to catch a honey-flow.

Early in February, 1894, I moved about 40 colonies five or six miles, to the orange-bloom, which was good, and I secured about 80 pounds surplus per colony, as well as doubling my number of colonies. The following June the colonies were packt and shipt some 65 miles to the mangrove on the coast. They were first hauled three miles to the railroad, loaded into a car, and taken 40 miles, then loaded on a boat and taken 12 miles down the river, and set out on the bank; within 24 hours they were bringing in new honey freely. The flow lasted about 40 days. The considered a short crop, I secured some 7,000 or 8,000 pounds, and I increase the colonies to 150.

They were packt the last of August, and moved 200 miles down the coast on two boats; in this move two or three colonies were lost by lack of ventilation. The fall bloom proved a failure, still the colonies did well in breeding up, gaining about 33 per cent. increase.

In the February following they were packt again, and all loaded (now numbering about 200) on one large sail-boat to be moved 150 miles to the orange grove on the north end of the Indian river. This proved a disastrous trip. I counted upon three or four days to go the 150 miles (having open water two to four or six miles wide the whole length of the river), but encountered a "northerner"—in other words, heavy wind and stormy weather—and were driven ashore, the bees being loaded in the "hold" of the boat. Before we realized it, nearly all perished from lack of ventilation. There were but about 25 colonies saved out of the lot, and these were reduced in numbers, and all the brood lost, still they built up rapidly, as soon as placed in the orange grove, and with the purchase of some 20 colonies were increased by June 25 to fill all the hives that colonies were lost from.

Mangrove in 1893 gave nothing, but in anticipation of getting a crop from it I packt and moved my colonies about 40 miles north from where they were for oranges. This move was made by railroad, the colonies being hauled  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the car, and again when unloaded hauled about half mile to the place where the apiary was located. This was about April 20; on the 3rd or 4th of May I found saw-palmetto blooming very abundantly some seven or eight miles away across the river. As there was comparatively little palmetto in reach of the colonies where they were located for the mangrove, and mangrove would not be opening for six weeks, I promptly packt a number of colonies and moved them on May 5 to the palmetto. In the following three weeks these colonies gathered an average of 60 pounds of surplus honey.

Mangrove, as stated above, proved a failure, and early in August, in driving across the country, some 18 or 20 miles from home, I came across a tract of cabbage palmetto that was blooming very heavy. Stopping at a "settler's" house in the vicinity, I found his bees—a few in old box-hives—were bringing in honey very freely. I drove home that night, and the following day packt a number of colonies and was on the way the following night; in 48 hours I had my whole 200 colonies on the ground, hauling the bees the whole distance (18 miles) by teams. The bloom lasted only 9 or 10 days, and two or three were stormy, still the colonies gathered an average of 40 or 45 pounds each. Then set in a long honey-dearth, and by Sept. 1 breeding had ceased altogether.

September 1 I commenced feeding every colony, and kept it up for three weeks, feeding about \$90 worth of feed. I did this to have bees for the fall bloom from wild sunflowers and golden-rods. There being a good deal of prairie country at

this location, and the settlers told me it comes up to these flowers every fall, in fact, when I commenced feeding for stimulating my colonies to breeding, I could see the young plants coming up thick all over the prairie.

By Sept. 25 the colonies commenced to gather some honey, and in a few days they were getting from a pound to two pounds of surplus, as shown by scale hive. The yield was cut short by a heavy gale and storm the 9th or 10th of October, and later entirely destroyed by a second gale, but the colonies did very well while they could work, and gathered about 40 pounds per colony from the sunflowers. Stimulative feeding had given six to eight frames solid with brood at the opening of the bloom, and had there been no gale, I think the surplus crop would have been exceptionally good.

In December, the bees were packt and moved about 70 miles; hauled first to the railroad about eight miles, then at the destination hauled out again half a mile to the location for the apiary. This was December, 1893; in the February and March following I secured a fine crop of orange honey, upwards of 10,000 from the 200 colonies, tho all of them were not workt for honey, as some had old queens and were worthless.

Leaving home about March 20 for a trip through the State and to Cuba, I returned about April 25, to find the colonies breeding very lightly, owing to a honey-dearth following the orange-flow. I decided to move at once to the saw-palmetto on the coast, and in three days, or on the 28th, I had the colonies packt and loaded on a car, and took them 60 miles, to New Smyrna. Here they were unloaded onto a "lighter," and a small tug towed us down the river 18 miles, and we unloaded the bees on a small island. In this move we lost about 25 per cent. of the colonies, and nearly all of the brood, having them packt too close with screens that did not leave the full size of the top of the hive open, as always heretofore. Still, notwithstanding this heavy loss, the 170 weak colonies gave me 42,000 pounds of honey from palmetto and mangrove in the following 70 days. A month after the flow ended the colonies were packt with full size screens, and moved back to the railroad, and then 100 miles, or thereabouts, to the interior of the State, and arrived at their destination in good condition, with no loss whatever.

In the above I have given the main moves made during three years, and it will give one an idea whether it paid or not. I have moved other lots of bees, and in a few instances I moved a portion of this apiary short distances, or divided it and put part at one place and part at another. These colonies were in what is known here in the South as the "Dixie" hive, or 8-frame (Langstroth size) hive. Of the crops of honey harvested, about 22,000 pounds was comb honey, and the rest extracted. The colonies run for extracted honey were tiered two and three stories high in good years, and those for comb honey sometimes had three and four supers on a colony at one time.

The expense of the moves run from \$60 to \$150 each. This included everything, cost of transportation, packing, hauling, etc.—as well as the cost of "screens." I had one man with me all the time, and then hired extra help when necessary.

With my experience it has paid to move bees. Still, it entails a vast amount of risk, and one knows from experience what taking risks means, and what it leads to.

Volusia Co., Fla., Oct. 9.



### Swarming Management—A Friendly Reply.

BY "BEE-STUDENT."

All right, Mr. Poppleton, I am glad you thought it proper to "call me down," on page 690, for it will give me a chance to explain that which I did not think necessary before. None of us has all the "kinks" out of our management so that everything runs smoothly at all times, and we may help each other greatly by reporting any short cuts we may have discovered, and now for my "short cut" in cutting out inferior queen-cells:

At swarming-time I have more hives ready than I ever use since adopting the method of ventilation described in a former article; and when a queen is so prolific as to require more room than a 10-frame Langstroth hive furnishes, I am always ready and anxious to help her find other quarters, and every colony being near and in plain sight, I put on my veil and go to the side of the hive, as soon as she swarms out, take off the cover gently and begin examining the combs, and by the time the swarm has left the hive I have my work half done; and by the time they have clustered, I have finished and closed the hive, and am ready to take care of the swarm.

Now, if Mr. Poppleton will tell me where to begin counting the 5 or 10 minutes I have lost in the operation, I will grant that he is right.

I hinted very strongly, in a previous article, that there was a best time to do all our work, and I find that time to be when nothing else is pressing, but it is too often the case with most men that there is *always* something pressing, and the queen-cell cutting must be delayed until the swarm is disposed of, or until next day, and altho grandfather managed thus, it is no excuse for you and me, in this progressive age. You may say it is impracticable to disturb the bees while swarming. How do you know it is? Every bee ready to go out with the swarm will go, and not one bee more by being disturbed at that time; and when you begin to take out the frames, the swarming part of the colony will take wing immediately, and they are in reality helped instead of hindered; as the majority of the old colony are afield, the combs are almost bare, and queen-cells are found at a glance; whereas, when you have to use smoke, the center combs, where you expect to find the best queen-cells, will be so thickly covered with bees that it will require about 15 minutes to make safe work of it.

The greater portion of my queens are clipped in order to facilitate my work should the whole apiary take the "swarming fever," as we know they do some years without any apparent cause for it.

I always have a cage at hand, and while handling the frames, keep an eye on the entrance for the queen, but she often comes out in time for me to cage her before opening the hive.

We often cause ourselves unnecessary work by not doing our work early enough, and here is where I commenced to lighten my labor, and tho not being able to do half of a man's labor, I can do more in the apiary than I could 20 years ago, and am still learning.

I hope the younger readers will take a hint from the above, if the older ones do not; and I would like to add my mite, from time to time, to the many good things we find in the indispensable "Old Reliable."

CORRECTION.—Please allow me to say that on page 594, third sentence should read, "And as only crowded colonies need ventilation, etc." instead of, "And as only covered colonies, etc." An error of the "typo."

Ventura Co., Calif.



### Advantages and Disadvantages of the Presence of Drones in the Hive.

BY C. P. DADANT.

The following questions appeared in the "Question-Box" some time ago, but requiring more space to reply to them than is there allowed, we give our answer in this article:

1. Do you think the advantages gained from the elimination of drones to be as great as is generally claimed, or are they over-estimated?
2. Are there not in your opinion counter-balancing advantages derivable from their presence in the hive in numbers more approaching to what Nature proportions them, and which we may have possibly overlooked?
3. Given an equal number of colonies, with queens of one age, and all of equal strength, one set with combs of their own building, and hence no restraint as to drone-rearing, and the other set with only worker-combs, and hence incapacitated from rearing drones, what, in your estimation, would be the difference, approximately, in amount of surplus honey harvested?—S. A. D.

ANSWER.—Instead of believing that the advantages gained from the elimination of drones have been over-estimated, we, on the contrary, believe that they are overlooked by the majority of bee-keepers.

The writer of the query thinks that Nature has provided the drones for a certain purpose. Yes, indeed, it has, and the great number of drones in a hive, in natural circumstances, is another evidence of the correctness of the theory of natural selection, or of the "survival of the fittest," as it has aptly been called by the leading men of science, and by Darwin in particular. In a state of nature the bees do not exist in very great numbers in any one place, and when hives are several miles apart, it becomes necessary that a great number of drones be hatched in each colony, in order that a sufficient number of them be found in the fields to render the queen's bridal flight successful. In other words, there must be enough drones reared in each hive to make it almost an absolute certainty that the queen of this hive, or of any other, for several miles, be sure to find one in the few minutes, or hours, at the most, that she spends in the air. Upon her life, the life of the colony depends, as there are often no other means left for the continuance of reproduction. All bee-keepers of experience know

what little chance there is for a colony whose queen is lost in her wedding flight, if young brood is not given it by the attentive owner.

But, under domestication, the conditions are changed; the colonies being congregated together in large numbers, it is quite evident that the drones of one or two hives will serve the same purpose that they would have served if those two hives were the only ones within the bees' range. It is therefore useless to rear such a number of drones, in all the hives.

The querist desires to know what would be, approximately, the difference in amount of surplus honey harvested, if colonies are incapacitated from rearing drones. Before answering that question we would like to enquire what advantage the writer has found in the rearing of drones. They do not work, they eat honey, in the hive, never out on the blossoms, and their rearing decreases the number of workers reared. Are not these facts sufficient to incite the bee-keepers to prevent their production in numbers limited only by natural proclivity? Is it necessary to theorize on the profit, and the approximate amount of honey saved by their suppression? If we had to compute it we would place this amount at a very high figure.

In a square inch of comb about 55 workers may be reared, while the same space will furnish room for only 36 drones, both sides of the comb being taken as a matter of course. Thus in a square foot of comb, where 5,000 drones could be hatched, you may rear nearly 8,000 workers, in round numbers. It looks reasonable that the same amount of feed will rear either brood, since it occupies same space. And when they have been hatched, you have a small swarm of workers, instead of a heap of useless, bothersome gormands that do nothing but loaf, but are sure to come home to eat. So if you have allowed your colony to rear them at a great expense you soon become convinced that they are in the way, and that they daily decrease your profits, and you perhaps go to work and provide a drone-trap—a nuisance—to try to get rid of them! Better not rear them at all! If you have taken pains to make sure of a sufficient number in one or two of your best colonies, why go upon some imaginary idea to permit their production in every hive? If you try ever so hard, to get rid of the drone-comb, you will still find more drones than you want when summer comes. But you will do well, and will find it pays, if you, at least, get rid of the biggest patches of drone-combs in all your hives but the breeders, as mentioned before.

What good did any one ever claim the drones do? "They kept the brood warm," some one says. But before they keep the brood warm, they have to be first kept warm, and they only hatch in the warm season, when there is but little danger of the brood getting cold, and when night comes, do not all the bees return to the hive and keep it warm? and is it not true that during the time when the drones are plenty, the bees are rather too warm in the hive? Is not this the time when they cluster on the outside, because it is too warm inside? And you want the drones to keep them warm? Better have the drones reared for winter, then!

It seems to us that the advantages from removing the drone-combs and replacing them with worker-combs are sufficiently apparent to make the matter a question of very serious consideration among practical bee-keepers, and unless some better arguments are brought to bear to convince us of our error, we will continue to advise our friends to remove the drone-combs, and do it ourselves, whenever opportunity offers. We are only sorry that we did not do it more carefully in former years.

Hancock Co., Ill.



### Preparing and Marketing Honey.

BY A. C. SANFORD.

In my travels around the State I see the one-pound section universally adopted, and also those nice 12-pound or 24-pound cases; and bee-keepers are learning to grade honey and put it up nicely, but in some places it is yet sent to the grocer in the bee-hive super, gum and all, which ought never to be done, because such doings help to keep prices of honey lower.

Now we will look into the extracted or clear honey trade. How do we find it? Well, the present season being a very poor one for honey here, I look for some in the eastern part of the State that might be good enough and in suitable packages for family use. The situation is like this: It is put up in such promiscuous packages that I wouldn't know what to offer my customers. There seems to be a good deal put up in large kegs, holding 50 to 300 pounds. Now I suppose these packages are all right for bakers' and confectioners' use, but will not do for the grocer or for the family trade, because they are much too large, and honey is hard to handle when once



hardened (as real good honey is most sure to do when cold weather comes).

I was not able to find extracted honey in small enough packages for retail trade. I saw some very choice honey in small tin cans in Watertown, and the man wanted 8½ cents per pound by the 100 pound lots. I saw another that would have been nice if it had not been badly handled. But why don't folks keep their honey in a dry, warm place instead of in the cellar? And why do they not leave the honey on the bee-hive till it is thick enough to be good?

Now a word about the size of packages for family use. Square tin cans holding 12-pounds are first-class, and will sell well; or if you wish cheaper packages, 15, 20, or 25 pound basswood jelly kits go very well, costing only about ½-cent per pound, or about that to put it up. It will cost about 12 cents to put honey in 12-pound tins. Almost any amount of choice extracted honey could be sold if nicely put up in one or two pound packages.

Now, why cannot bee-keepers put up their extracted honey in nice, uniform shape, as well as the comb. If we all would use some reason in this, as well as in other things, there is no reason why we should not get nearly as much per pound as for honey in the comb. To accomplish this, we must first adopt right and businesslike principles. Every person selling extracted honey should have his name and address on every package, and always state the quality. Any one found selling adulterated goods should be severely dealt with. Honey is one of the most wholesome articles there is for food, and the innocent purchaser ought to be protected as well. One thing we should remember, that is, to please the eye as well as the palate.

All the clippings and bits of comb, if saved and rendered nicely, will make nice wax, and will bring a remunerative price. Try it.

Pierce Co., Wis.



### Report for 1897—Selling Honey.

BY E. S. MILES.

From 32 colonies, spring count, I increased to 52, and got 1,900 pounds of comb honey and 400 pounds of extracted honey. The 10-frame colonies swarmed just as much as 8-frame ones. I noticed no difference, except the 10-frame hives gave the largest swarms. Best yield from one colony was from a 10-frame hive, 155 pounds of comb honey, and increased one. The next best, 114 pounds from an 8-frame hive whose colony did not swarm. I don't think there is so much difference between the 8-frame and 10-frame hives as one would think from reading the champions of the respective sizes, provided you watch the 8-frame colony carefully. I try to watch, and if the spring is favorable the 8-frame colony may get too much honey in the brood-chamber, thus crowding the queen out, when I take out an outside comb or two, and give empty ones; or they may run short, when I take out an empty one or two, and give full ones.

Now I am going to do what may seem a fool-hardy thing. I am going to disagree with the editor. While I do not agree with Mr. Pease (page 728) altogether, I do agree that Mr. Pease has come nearer the truth than has Editor York in his editorial reply.

My experience of the last two or three years agrees perfectly with Mr. Pease's first subject; that is, that bee-keepers hurt both the sale and price of honey by their glowing reports that they are so apt to make along about swarming-time, when everything looks favorable and the bees are booming. To illustrate, I will tell how it was here this year.

The season opened up favorably; bees wintered well, and along about the middle of June the bees began to gather honey and swarm. Now understand, as Dr. Gallup says, everything looks favorable—lots of clover, nice weather and ground good and moist. Well, the farmer who has his hands full at that time with tending his corn crop, and has almost forgotten he has a half dozen colonies of bees out in the back yard, concludes that as the bees are swarming so much, perhaps he had better get some "boxes" and put on, the "first cool morning," as now they have swarmed perhaps they will "make" some honey. So he goes to the local supply man, the first time he goes to town, and calls for honey-boxes.

The supply man says "All right," and while wrapping up the sections, asks the farmer how his bees are "doin'."

The farmer says: "First-rate; never saw the like; had 6 in the spring, got 24 now, and lost 3 or 4, and I don't 'spose they are done swarmin' yet."

"The local bee-man" asks if he has any "boxes" on yet? "Oh, no; been terrible busy; such a wet spring, corn planting late, and corn weedy; ha!nt had time to fool with bees; don't think they have 'made' any honey yet any way."

The local man says: "Why, you ought to have boxes enough to put two or three sets on those swarms. Just come out here and see mine. Here is one that came a week ago, working in the second set of boxes, and I'll give it another set in a few days. Here, look in this hive; it swarmed yesterday. Aint that nice honey? It will fill another set or two of boxes yet. I tell you what, that beats 15-cent corn, and you better take plenty boxes along. You'll make a pile off them bees if you 'tend to 'em right."

So the farmer goes on his way rejoicing; puts from 1 to 3 sets of sections on every hive that has bees in it, probably putting the most "boxes" on the old "stands," and few or none on the "new swarms," not expecting them to "make" much honey until they get older. Now every thing is lovely till cold weather, and I know, and am personally acquainted with one man at least, who did not believe that white clover had stopt yielding honey up to Sept. 25, because he saw some in bloom over in his pasture! Such bee-keepers do not know how much honey they have until they take it off, when the weather is too cold for the bees to object, but they always tell about what a lot they have ready to take off.

The local supply man, referred to above, and who is no creature of the imagination, paid me a visit about the time the farmer was in after "boxes." He told me one farmer had one colony in the spring, and at that time had had five swarms and was in after more hives as he expected more swarms. Honey had always sold for 15 cents or more here, up to last year, when farmers with poor batches of old, dark combs knocked the price to 12½ cents, and then 10 cents. But by having a nice article, and sticking to it, I retailed most of mine at 15 cents.

The local supply man at the time of his visit said to me: "Honey will be cheap; going to be a big crop; they [the stores] will put it at ten cents at the start."

I replied: "I don't know yet. We are not sure of a big crop yet. If the weather should turn unfavorable just now, we would have very little marketable honey. I don't think I have a case ready to come off yet. As for the price, the stores will get it as cheap as they can so as to sell it quick."

Now about a week or ten days after this, the honey-flow stopt off short. The scale hive which had been showing a gain of 2½ to 4 pounds a day, dropt to 1, and next day nothing, with the clover looking about as good as ever. We were left with lots of unfinished sections.

About this time we take off some honey, and strike out to peddle it out on our old route of last year. We ask 15 cents for a single section, or 12½ cents per section for 4 or more. All right, no kick made at the first few houses; honey was nice, all satisfactory.

Strike another street. Go to a house that we sold to only occasionally last year. Ask if they wouldn't like some honey? Didn't know, how much a pound? Fifteen cents single section, or 12½ per section for four or more. They laugh and say that Mr. —, the local supply man's boy was around with honey this morning selling it for 10 cents. Didn't buy any, but it lookt nice, might call again, they would see about it, etc.

Now what could we do in such circumstances? Do you say we would have to come down in price? You have guest correctly. We sorted our honey more carefully than ever before, and managed to sell the very best of it at 12½ cents per section, and all the rest goes slow at 10 cents.

Now, is there more sold and used since it has gone down? Our leading grocery men tell me no, there is no better sale, but they must sell it at that, as their customers say they have heard this one or that one is offering it for that. The local man afterwards told me it was too low, and that there was not nearly as much honey as was expected. But the groceries were selling for 10 cents, and it was no use asking more.

Now the price is flat at 10 cents, clearly the results of glowing reports and too many bee-keepers. Nouse to say, "Get them to read the bee-papers," as the local man is the man who recommended the American Bee Journal to me, but he has cut down expenses, I understand, and can produce all the 10-cent honey he can sell without the aid of the grand old American Bee Journal. Crawford Co., Iowa.



**A New Binder** for holding a year's numbers of the American Bee Journal, we propose to mail, postpaid, to every subscriber who sends us 20 cents. It is called "The Wood Binder," is patented, and is an entirely new and very simple arrangement. Full printed directions accompany each Binder. Every reader should get it, and preserve the copies of the Bee Journal as fast as they are received. They are invaluable for reference, and at the low price of the Binder you can afford to get it yearly.

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## Editorial Comments.

**Talking Through His (Bee)-Hat.**—The Chautauquan is the subject of a hold-up in Gleanings. Strange that ably conducted papers don't know enough, when they want something about bees, to have it written by some one who has a personal acquaintance with them. The stuff in Chautauquan is just stuff. Room here for only one instance. Yes, two:

"A queen-bee from the South.....is introduced in one of the modern queen-cages. So closely imitated is the ordinary cell of a queen-bee by this cage that the hive-workers are readily deceived.....The bees will instantly pounce upon it and liberate the queen by eating through the sugar paste. Poor, deluded souls! in their innocence they think they have hatched out a queen."

There's richness for you! And here's something in the way of exact figures:

"It should be remembered that bees deserve our respect and protection, and that to kill a bee is to waste a pound of honey!"

### Trans-Mississippi Exposition Bee-Notes.

—Of course all bee-keepers are interested in the great exposition to be held at Omaha next year, on account of the large apiarian exhibit that is being worked up by Hon. E. Whitcomb, the head of the Bureau of Bee-Industries. He writes us that Nebraska will occupy 500 feet of space in this department. Mr. L. D. Stillson, who is in charge of this exhibit, will fill it very creditably, and has a goodly portion of the material necessary already in warm storage where he will carry it over winter.

Mr. R. F. Holtermann, of the Canadian Bee Journal, is engaged in rustling up a fine honey exhibit from Ontario. The bee-keepers across the line are evincing an energy that may

put their Yankee neighbors on their mettle, unless the latter begin to hump themselves.

The Minnesota Bee-Keepers' Supply Manufacturing Company (the name alone will need large room) are taking space at the Exposition, which will be in charge of Mr. Don Westcott, of Nebraska. "Don" is one of the young bee-keepers of the State, and is evincing an energy that must bring success, and which indicates that he may be heard from in the future among bee-keepers.

Several State bee-keepers' associations hold their annual meeting this and next month, and Mr. Whitcomb is hoping to hear from them shortly afterward.

Mr. N. E. France has been doing some work towards a proper representation of Wisconsin's bee-industries at the Trans-Mississippi. Mr. France is in a position to get up a fine exhibit from his State, and he should receive substantial encouragement from the big bee-keepers in that State.

Secretary Chase, of the Iowa Commission, says that he expects to make a very fine exhibit of honey and other bee-products, also bee-keepers' implements and machinery. A superintendent for the Iowa honey exhibit has not yet been appointed, but this appointment will be made sometime during this month.

It is proposed to allow States that put up exhibits in the Bureau of Bee-Industries, to liquefy honey as often as is necessary in order to keep their exhibits looking bright, and to replace their exhibits, or as much thereof as they may desire, with the honey crop of 1898, at any time during the Exposition.

The official bird's-eye view of the Exposition grounds is now being issued, and is giving the general public an idea of what may be expected next summer. Work on all buildings in course of construction is being pushed regardless of the weather, and they will certainly be in readiness for occupancy in time for the opening of the Exposition, June 1. We hope soon to have a picture of the Exposition grounds to show our readers. It will be a big fair, second only to the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. Better begin to think about going, should all be well with you next summer.

**Do Bee-Keepers' Conventions Pay?**—This question is discussed by G. M. Doolittle in the Canadian Bee Journal. He says if they are for personal quarrels and advertising wares, then they don't pay. But if wholly for discussing practical bee-keeping, each one imparting his mite to the common fund of information, then they pay big. Three points:

First, at a convention "forget all the cares and worry which have pressed upon us during the year, and go to the convention like a boy let loose from school, to recuperate our health and life by a free and social intercourse outside of convention hours. By such intercourse we often learn more of value than we do during the hours the convention is in session."

Second, get all information possible, using pencil and note-book, and afterward impart to others.

Third, examine all hives, implements, etc., to see if any or parts of any will help our own work. One item of this kind that he got at one convention paid him all he ever spent in attending conventions. It was the "no-drip" idea of having manilla paper in the bottoms of shipping-cases.

**Uniting the Unions.**—In the Orange Judd Farmer for Dec. 11, Mr. W. Z. Hutchinson has a brief but very interesting article on uniting the national bee-keepers' organizations, a part of the last paragraph of which reads as follows:

"The United States Bee-Keepers' Union held its annual convention in Buffalo, N. Y., at the time of the meeting of the G. A. R. encampment. The attendance was the best since the World's Fair convention. At this meeting were present



20 men who were also members of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, and they all express themselves in favor of amalgamation. This new Union is only a little over a year old, but it has already done some excellent work in bringing some of the honey-dealers to time."

The United States Bee-Keepers' Union is having new names added to its membership list daily. It has now over 300 members, and we believe that very soon there will be a stampede into its ranks. Poor seasons previous to the past one have worked against building up a large membership in such organizations, but now that there is a better feeling, and better crops, we see no reason why bee-keepers and others who are in favor of pure food—pure honey—should not join the New Union in large numbers.

The same number of the Orange Judd Farmer has on its first page a good reproduction of the photograph of the Lincoln, Nebr., meeting of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, held in 1896.

**A Great Honey-Region.**—Speaking of a part of Colorado, R. C. Aikin says in Gleanings:

"In 1892 the number of colonies of bees in Boulder county was estimated at 18,000, which, yielding 25 pounds, would give 20 carloads. Outside of the towns, I should judge that one-fourth of the homes have from one to ten or more colonies of bees, and that within 75 miles of Denver there are bees enough to produce 50 or more carloads of honey, if they were properly handled."

If this is a fair sample of the density of Colorado's bee-population, it seems to us that it ought to be a good field for securing subscribers to bee-papers. And yet we doubt if 300 bee-keepers in that whole State read any bee-paper regularly.

**The Michigan State Convention** will be held at the Donevan Hotel in Mt. Pleasant, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. Of course, all who can possibly attend are invited. The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association is one of the oldest bee-organizations in this country, and one of the very best. Its annual gatherings are always exceedingly interesting and profitable, whether there be many or few present. There should be a large attendance at the coming meeting. For further information address the Secretary, W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint, Mich.

**Change of Date.**—The Seneca Co., N. Y., bee-keepers' convention has changed its date of meeting from Dec. 16 to Wednesday, Dec. 22. A part of the program was given last week. C. B. Howard, Romulus, N. Y., is the Secretary.

## The Weekly Budget.

MR. R. C. AIKIN, wife and baby, are pictured in Gleanings for Dec. 1. They form a pretty solid-looking family, as well as a happy-looking one.

HON. EUGENE SECOR—General Manager of the United States Bee-Keepers' Union—is also President of the North-eastern Iowa Horticultural Society, which held its 13th annual meeting at Forest City, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 and 2.

MR. FRED HOLTKE, of Essex Co., N. J., writing Dec. 7, said:

"Your American Bee Journal is grand. I cannot see how I could do without it. It is better than ever."

MR. C. C. PARSONS, of Jefferson Co., Ala., writing us Dec. 19, said:

"Bees have done well here this year. My best colony gave me 196 pounds of comb honey. The American Bee Journal is well worth the price you ask for it."

THE MINNESOTA BEE-KEEPERS' SUPPLY MFG. Co., of Minneapolis, have just sent us a copy of their new catalog. It contains descriptions of about everything needed in a well-outfitted apiary. Their advertisement will be found running regularly in the Bee Journal.

MR. M. H. MENDLESON, of Ventura Co., Calif., writing us Nov. 29, said:

"I always read the American Bee Journal with interest. Bee-men from here to the Ojal and Matilaja canyon, had a failure in the crop of honey the past season, but their bees have filled up for the winter."

"HONEY AS FOOD"—our 24-page pamphlet does not contain a single advertisement of anybody's goods. But it has a blank space on the front for the use of a rubber stamp by the bee-keeper who is wise enough to distribute them for the purpose of creating sales of honey. We mail a sample free, and after that the cost is: 25 for 30 cents; 50 for 50 cents; or 100 for 85 cents. Prices on large quantities given on application.

**RENEWING SUBSCRIPTIONS.**—This month is usually the greatest of the twelve for renewing subscriptions to the periodicals taken during the year. Many publishers offer premiums for advance renewals, such offers expiring Jan. 1. If you have received any such don't forget to take advantage of them *this month*—don't wait until January, and then claim a premium. They are offered usually for a specified length of time, and any one failing to comply with the conditions, must not complain if they get no premium for renewing. These suggestions apply to any and all offers in the line indicated.

EDITOR R. B. LEAHY, of the Progressive Bee-Keeper, describes in the December issue a trip he took last July, visiting Messrs. J. W. Rouse and Jno. Nebel & Son, of Missouri, E. T. Flanagan, of Illinois, and Chas. F. Muth, of Ohio. He says that Mr. Flanagan now has over 600 colonies, but aspires to be the manager of 1,000; and that Mr. Muth, some years ago, when the national bee-keepers' convention was held in his city, "ordered free lemonade prepared for all present, and kept a barrel of it standing in the room below the hall during the convention," at a cost to himself of about \$40. That was generosity for you. The lemonade-cup is far ahead of the German wine-cup mentioned last week. You can count us in on the lemonade, every time.

MR. J. MESSINGER, of Elroy, Juneau Co., Wis., has been offering his home and apiary for sale (see page 798). If you want a bargain, write to him. His report for 1897 is as follows:

"My bees went into winter quarters in fine condition. I got more than an average crop, considering there was no honey gathered from basswood in this section, and but very little from buckwheat, as we had a cold, wet August, but they made up largely in September, as we had fine, warm weather. I had 76 colonies, spring count, increased to 100, and my honey crop was 7,800 pounds of fine quality, a little over one-half being white clover. I have made bee-business a study for years, and with the help of the 'Old Reliable' I have made it a success. There is a good prospect for 1898, as white clover was fine when winter set in."

EDITOR HUTCHINSON, of the Bee-Keepers' Review, has the following very complimentary paragraph in his November number, for which we make our politest bow:

"An editor will notice editorial work on a journal similar to his own quicker than will any one else; and in this connection I wish to say that I believe no bee-journal shows more careful, conscientious, editorial work than does the American Bee Journal. By this I do not mean that it contains a large amount of editorial matter, because it does not, but there is an undefinable something about a paper that tells to the practiced eye when things have been 'lickt into shape,' or whether they have been thrown together after the 'slap dab' style.... I doubt if the Bee Journal was ever of much more practical value than at present. Speaking of work, I believe that Bro. York does not have a large force, yet he gets out a weekly, and I know that he must have to put in hours of work with which we monthly fellows have no acquaintance."

See "Bee-Keeper's Guide" offer on page 685.

# Questions AND Answers

CONDUCTED BY

DR. C. C. MILLER, MARENGO, ILL.

[Questions may be mailed to the Bee Journal, or to Dr. Miller direct.]

## Preparing Bees for Safe Cellar-Wintering.

How can I prepare my bees so they will pull through the winter? I have 16 colonies in fairly good condition so far. They occupy the common Langstroth 8-frame hives, are packed in winter-cases with chaff, the bottom-board under, the full entrance open, passage-way free secured, and the top cover sealed on. They are already put into a dry ventilated cellar, where I think I can keep the temperature from 40° to 50° Fahr. Do you think it advisable to keep the cover on, or shall I break it loose and put cushions on top, under the cover of the winter-case? Is there ventilation enough from the entrance? The "A B C of Bee Culture" advises leaving the bottom-board off to give under ventilation, and keep the cover sealed air-tight in the cellar. MINNESOTA, Nov. 22.

ANSWER.—Probably it doesn't make a great deal of difference whether the covers are on tight or not. If the hives are open enough below, perhaps it is better to have the covers sealed just as the bees left them. Just as you have them now, the probability is that the ventilation is hardly free enough. You can make it all right by raising the cover enough to lay a tenpenny nail under it. I should prefer, however, to leave the covers as they are, and to give more air below. I'm taking it for granted that the entrances of the hives are only about half an inch deep. Two inches will be much better. Perhaps it will not be convenient for you to make so deep an entrance, but you can probably raise the hives enough to put blocks under the four corners. An inch block under each corner will be good, or it may be still better to put 1½ inch blocks under the two front corners, and not raise the hive at all at the back end.

## Late Drones—Late Swarm Getting Weak.

1. One colony of my bees seems to have a large amount of drones. We have some warm days that the bees fly quite strong, and the other hives have no drones flying, but this one has a large per cent. of drones. Is this not uncommon?

2. I had one swarm issue Sept. 1, and they filled their hive in good shape. It was an uncommonly large swarm, but seems to be getting weaker all the time. If they had no queen would they have gone to work and done so well? And would they not all have been dead before now? NEBR.

ANSWERS.—1. Yes, it is uncommon to find many drones left in a colony so late in the season. In such a case there is always room for suspicion that the colony is queenless, but bees are freaky, and it sometimes happens that a strong colony may save its drones even when it has a good queen.

2. It is not likely they were queenless at time of hiving, for in that case they would hardly have staid and done such good work. Something may have happened to the queen, however, after the bees had been at work some little time, or she may have failed from old age. It is quite likely, however, that the queen is there all right. If the swarm was a strong one, a goodly portion of the bees were pretty old and would die off rapidly. No young bees would come to take their places till the latter part of September, and as the swarm was a big one it is likely that the queen was laying 2,000 eggs a day in July. That means that 2,000 bees would be dying daily in September, enough to make a good-sized swarm in the three weeks before any young bees could emerge.

## Best Management for Most Honey.

How can I best manage my bees to get the best results in comb and extracted honey? They are in 8-frame dovetailed hives. The main honey-flow here is from sweet clover, commencing about July 10th or 15th. There is enough honey

coming in before that time to keep them building up, and a little surplus. They begin to swarm about the first of May. I do not care for the increase, but would like to have them at their best just when the harvest is commencing. Would not a 10-frame hive be better, using both stories so as to give the queen plenty of room? WASHINGTON.

ANSWER.—It's a hard matter to say just what is best. If your bees swarm as early as May 1, and your chief harvest does not come till July 10 or 15, there may be a possibility that you will be better off to have them swarm. From May 1 to July 10 is just ten weeks. In that ten weeks wouldn't the old colony have plenty of time to build up as strong as ever, thus giving you two colonies instead of one for the harvest?

Undoubtedly, however, May 1 is only the beginning of swarming, and not many colonies swarm thus early, the swarms being strung out all along the following ten weeks. For most of these it would be an advantage if the whole force could be held together. Much will be accomplished by giving the queen plenty of room, as you have already intimated in your suggestion to give the bees two stories of 10 frames each. Why not give them two stories of 8 frames each, so long as you already have 8-frame hives? Possibly 10-frame hives would be better. Give abundance of ventilation. Raise the lower story an inch above the bottom-board by putting a block an inch thick under each one of the four corners. If the hives are close-fitting, don't set the second story square on the first, but move it forward until there shall be a space at the back end of half an inch. That will allow a passage of air directly through the lower story, and will be very agreeable to the bees during hot days. Early in the season the colony will perhaps be better in the upper story, as they will be warmer there, but as it becomes strong if it does not begin to occupy the combs in the lower story you may insist upon it by moving some of them down. Managed in this way you will probably be able to hold most of your forces together till the time of harvest. But it may be worth while to do what you can to crowd some of the strongest into swarming the first of May, and see how they compare with the others.

## Queen's Bridal Trip—Honey to produce a Pound of Bees, Etc.

1. Can a queen on her bridal trip fall to meet drones? If so, will she return to the hive? or what will she do? Will she take any more trips?

2. What causes bee-paralysis?

3. Since it takes from 13 to 20 pounds of honey to produce one pound of wax, how much (honey) will it take to produce one pound of bees?

4. Is honey ready-made in flowers and gathered by bees, or is it a substance obtained therefrom, and manufactured into honey by the bees? JAMAICA.

ANSWERS.—1. It frequently happens that a queen makes more than one trip to be fertilized, if indeed it is not the general rule. If unsuccessful, the trip will be repeated.

2. The cause of paralysis is said to be a bacillus called by Cheshire "bacillus Gaytoni," because Miss Gayton first called attention to it.

3. I am not sure whether the cost in honey of a pound of bees has ever been definitely settled. I have seen some estimates in that direction, but do not know now where to refer to them. If any one has reliable information as to how much honey a pound of bees costs, I'll gladly yield the floor.

4. Some say bees gather honey, some say bees make honey. All probably agree that they gather nectar, a very watery sweet, containing more cane-sugar than the finished product, and the assertion that bees produce changes in the nectar that might fall under the line of manufacturing would hardly be assailed so bitterly or so generally to-day as it would have been a few years earlier.

## Colony Moving Upstairs—Comb Honey Production and Wintering—Honey-Vinegar.

1. Near the beginning of October I gave three colonies of bees each a hive of combs that had been extracted, to clean up, placing the hives of empty combs on top. A few days after, on attempting to remove the hives of empty combs I found that two or three colonies were clustered compactly on the empty combs; their hives of honey underneath being absolutely deserted. Is not this unusual? and will it be safe to leave them like that during the winter? □

2. I have understood that in producing comb honey you use two 8-frame hives tiered up. Is this true? and if so, do



you reduce to one hive for the winter, or do you winter the two as one hive?

3. In making honey-vinegar in an open crock should the scum, etc., that rises to the top, be skimmed off? PENN.

ANSWERS.—1. Altho not the usual thing, it may happen in a good many cases. At that time some colonies, at least, are without brood, and if there is free communication it would be nothing strange for the whole family to move their quarters.

2. I like a second story placed under in the spring and left till time to put on supers. When supers are taken off, the second story below is useful to prevent the possibility of having the queen crowded out. When all gathering is over, then the lower story is taken away so as to be lighter for moving, and to take up less room in cellar. If I wintered my bees outdoors (as I have done experimentally in a few cases) I should hold to the two stories all the year round except when supers were on. In a few cases I have tried leaving the two stories all the time even when supers were on, but it has not proved satisfactory. Possibly it might if I knew better how to manage.

3. I don't know of any harm the scum will do until the vinegar comes to be used, when of course it must be removed.

## BEEDOM BOILED DOWN.

**Prospect for Next Crop.**—Fears are expressed in Gleanings that the drouth that prevailed so generally may have killed outright a good deal of the white clover.

**Effect of Frequent Extracting.**—A writer in Centralblatt says that frequent extracting excites to greater diligence in storing. Perhaps this statement should have its place in connection with the McIntyre-Canadian-Bee-Journal-American-Bee-Keeper controversy.

**Yellow-Box Honey from Australia** has been sampled by the Southland Queen, which says, "We consider it A1, and good enough for the king's table." Australians feel aggrieved that Londoners will not admit that it is good enough for the queen's table, nor indeed for any table.

**Do Bees Creep into the Cells in Winter?**—Dzierzon says they do. Rauschenfels, supported by Lehzen, the able editor of Centralblatt, says his bees remain in the spaces between the combs, constantly exchanging places, and when a bee is found in a cell, except as it goes there for food or because disturbed, such bee is dead, stone-dead.

**Getting Unfinished Sections Cleaned.**—Chalon Fowls gives his method in Gleanings. At the time of taking off supers a bee-escape is left on a colony short of stores. When ready to have unfinished sections cleaned up, the escape is taken out of the board, and the hole plugged up with a block having a small hole in it. Then supers of sections to be cleaned are piled on, and the bees do the rest.

**Finding Queens** is uphill business for beginners. For their encouragement, the Southland Queen tells of an inexperienced hand, one of three who lookt through 168 colonies, and he didn't find a queen. "At times we would point to the queen and the man could not see her. At one time we had him touch the queen with his pencil before he could see her, and this, too, after he had been shown nearly a hundred queens."

**Separators in Shipping-Cases.**—Mention is made in Gleanings of the use of separators or pieces of thin veneer between the rows of sections in shipping-cases. A number of the York Staters use thin veneering stuff, and E. Kretschmer advocates separators, in the Canadian Bee Journal, so that if a section of honey falls down it will not break down its neighbor. Something of the kind is said to be a necessity with no-bee-way sections, in which the comb comes almost flush with the outer edge of the section.

**Bees in Winter.**—W. Albrecht, in Centralblatt, compares the winter rest of the bees to that of the badger, which does not remain entirely motionless throughout the winter, but turns over in its sleep from time to time. So in severe cold the cluster of bees is constantly changing, the outer bees working toward the center to get warm; 50° Fahrenheit is the minimum temperature for the outer bees. If, through

lack of food or through disease, the temperature sinks below this point, then death ensues through freezing, gradually extending to the center. The greater the cold the more fuel must be used to keep up the heat, that is, the more must be eaten, in order to keep up the temperature of the periphery to 50°. So it may happen that in the midst of the severest winter brood may be reared, requiring a temperature of from 86° to 95°.

**Prevention of Virgin Swarms.**—In Hanover, Germany, it is a common thing for a prime swarm to send out a swarm itself in about four weeks. To prevent this, and the consequent reduction of surplus resulting from it, the bee-keeper has prepared in advance a number of nuclei with a young queen and a handful of bees each, and these nuclei swap hives with the prime swarms. That is, all the bees are brushed out of each hive, and the nucleus receives the full combs and brood in return for its meagerly supplied hive.

**Dry Lumber for Hives.**—M. A. Gill says that for very dry climates such as Colorado, lumber should be kiln-dried to the "last extremity" before being used for hives. He had a lot of supers with a 5/16 space over the sections, but the shrinkage of the lumber in the supers reduced the space to such an extent that when the cover was forcibly taken off a considerable number of the sections were ruined by being pulled apart. The bees had glued them fast to the cover. Dry lumber and exact spaces are two things that can hardly be separated.—Gleanings.

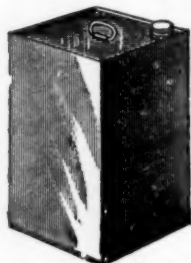
**Hanover Bee-Keepers.**—Herr Lehzen, editor of Centralblatt, gives an interesting account of the bee-keepers in the province of Hanover, Germany. They form a sort of guild by themselves. To become an Imker (bee-keeper) a young man serves an apprenticeship of two years to a professional, that is, to one who has himself past through an apprenticeship, and he is then ready to secure a position with a farmer to take care of his bees. The Imker neither reads bee-journals nor writes for them, but he has his trade well learned, is keen, alert, and a successful practitioner. His rule is: Keep only strong colonies, for few but strong colonies bring greater results than many weak colonies.

**A Worker-Bee's Temperature.**—The Germans are noted for painstaking research, and some of them have been trying to find out what is the temperature of a worker-bee. One man masht a clump of bees and then applied the thermometer. Dzierzon, in an address at the Wiesbaden convention, declared that it was a fruitless task to try to determine the temperature of a worker, as it has no temperature whatever. A colony or cluster has a temperature, but not a separate bee. The bee takes the temperature of the surrounding atmosphere, and on flying away from its companions must hasten back if the thermometer be not above 45° or 50°. It must at least be admitted that a separate bee has little ability to keep a temperature higher than the surrounding atmosphere.

**A Portable House-Apiary.**—Editor Root describes a house-apiary of Miles Morton, of New York, that is put together in sections, each section adding to the length of the building, the sections formed of panels that can be taken apart and the whole moved at any time from one location to another. A peculiarity of the building—entirely independent of its portable character—is the way in which the walls are built. The upper part of the building is wider than the lower. The lower part rises perpendicularly to the proper height for the second tier of hives, then a jog in the wall allows the hives to rest fairly balanced on the siding. This answers a double purpose—the hives have a strong support, and the lower hives are in the right place to stand on while working at the upper.

**Late-Reared Queens.**—Mr. Doolittle says in Gleanings that in his experience half the unfertilized queens he winters over never lay at all. This agrees with one of the propositions laid down by Dzierzon about 40 years ago, that if an unfertilized queen laid she could produce only drones. But Doolittle considers an unfertilized queen, whether barren or a drone-layer, of some value in a strong colony through the winter—that is, the colony is better off with such a queen than with none at all, for the bees will remain more quiet and winter better if they have something they recognize as a queen. Then the colony can be saved by introducing a queen from the South in the spring. It would, however, be better to get this queen from the South in the preceding fall, then she would commence laying in February or March, making the colony stronger for the harvest.

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## General Items.

### Not a Good Season.

The past was not a good season, as the white clover did not secrete any nectar. We have in winter quarters 45 colonies in good condition.

We enjoy the Bee Journal very much, and would not like to be without it.

M. C. BINGHAM.

Coos Co., Wash., Nov. 22.

### Wintering Away Up North.

I am wintering a colony in Muskoka, where the temperature varies so much. I fear I have packed them so well that they will be smothered for want of air; but just how to give them air enough and keep out the frost, too, is the difficulty.

THOMAS HENDRY.

Muskoka, Ont., Canada, Nov. 26.

### A Reply.

On page 459, Geo. W. Prater, of Pierce Co., Wash., has, for one reason or another, tried to throw ink over part of my writing on page 398. To such rude actions I will only say, like Mr. York did on a certain occasion, but to another person, that if Mr. P. thinks he can stand it, I think I can.

T. H. WAALE.

Clarke Co., Wash., Nov. 29.

### Best White Clover Flow in Years.

Bees did well in the forepart of the season. The honey-flow from white clover was the best for years. Basswood yielded only a small crop. There was no fall honey this year, as it has been too dry since July. I have extracted 1,000 pounds from 14 colonies.

A. F. KRUEGER.

Washington Co., Wis., Nov. 26.

### Fine Season for Bee-Keepers.

Bees did splendidly the past season. It was a fine one here for bee-keepers. I got 2,680 pounds of comb and extracted honey from 29 colonies, spring count, and increased to 51, returning 10 swarms. I commenced bee-keeping in 1893, and have not lost a colony in wintering, or a swarm in swarming-time. I credit my success to the bee-papers, of which I take three.

J. W. PAYNE.

Vermillion Co., Ill., Nov. 26.

### Bee-Keeping in Indian Territory.

My apiary is located on the beautiful Grand river, near the Cherokee Orphan Asylum. I commenced the season of 1897 with 10 colonies, and I now have 37 in 8-frame hives. I clip all my queens, and would not think of doing otherwise. Hiving swarms by that process is a pleasure. I use the Monette clipping device, and would not do without it for five dollars a year. It is not only useful in clipping, but is equally useful in catching the queen when swarming.

I have not had a swarm desert a hive this season. There is a right and a wrong way to proceed in this, as in other things. You want to shade the swarm and give plenty of ventilation. I always give a frame of eggs and unsealed brood if possible.

I ventilate my hives during hot weather by raising the fronts one inch, and let the back rest on the bottom-board. That does not bother the bees so much as to raise all the hive, and it gives plenty of ventilation.

I wire all frames, and if I do not wish to use full sheets of foundation I set the hives perfectly level from side to side; the bees will build perfectly straight combs over the wires as nicely as can be, and if managed rightly very little drone-comb will be built. Put on a super and give but part of the



# THE AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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Cosmopolitan	Inter-Ocean
McClure's	Munsey's
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N. Y. Tribune	Ohio Farmer
Detroit Free Press	N. Y. World
Nat'l Stockman	Rural New Yorker
Poultry Monthly	Farm Poultry
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The following choice reading, the regular price of which is \$4.50, we will furnish one year for \$3.25:

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Godey's Magazine—a leading ladies' magazine and fashion monthly of the United States.  
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frames with starters. If the bees get ahead of the queen, then they will begin to build drone-comb. Use an excluder, or the queen may lay in the sections.

In introducing queens and uniting loose tobacco smoke, and I find it very successful. I powder up some tobacco and put it into the smoker; give the bees a few puffs, and let the queen run in at the entrance. This should be done near dark, or you are liable to start robbing.

Bees should never be molested when honey is not coming in during the day; always wait till sundown, or after. Now if you are a beginner heed this. I had read warning after warning on this very subject, but I had worked during honey-flows, and everything moved along smoothly, but the honey ceased, and one day I went out to look for a queen that I had decided to supersede. I opened the hive, took out the frames, and worked leisurely. The consequence was I lost that colony in spite of all I could do. I used hay wet down, closed the entrance, and finally tacked wire-cloth so that no bees could get in or out. Oh, my! I never saw bees so wild in my life.

J. T. HAIRSTON.

Cherokee Nation, Ind. Ter.

## Bees Did Pretty Well.

My bees did pretty well the past summer. From 10 colonies, spring count, I had 685 pounds of comb honey, in well-filled sections, and had no swarms. I had 100 pounds of extracted honey. I packed 14 colonies on the summer stands in sawdust and shavings. I want to buy 16 colonies more in the spring, so as to start in the spring with 30 colonies.

I like the American Bee Journal very well. JOHN EENIGENBERG.  
Cook Co., Ill., Dec. 3.

## A Beginner's Report.

With much interest I read the reports of the bee-keepers throughout the land. As I am a beginner in bee-keeping I will have a short report.

Our summer flow from white clover was excellent, but our fall flow was short on account of dry weather. I started with 2 colonies last spring, and increased to 5, including 1 nucleus, and secured about 120 pounds of comb honey. I bought 3 more colonies. A few days ago I built a shed for them, and packed them in, side by side, with clover chaff on the back, underneath and in between, and some on top, with the front clear, but boarded it entirely shut, and put galvanized iron shields at the entrance of each hive to guard against mice.

I have learned a great deal about bees the past summer, and know but little yet.

H. W. HECHLER.

Keokuk Co., Iowa, Nov. 25.

## Report for 1897, Etc.

I began this year with 20 colonies, lost one early from the effects of a laying worker; another colony was weak, but built up during the summer to give me a few pounds of surplus; virtually leaving but 18 colonies for business, and from them I obtained 8 prime swarms, 3 second swarms, and 1 third swarm, all doing quite well; the last-named swarm were supplied with two full frames of honey in September; these all came off in June.

The white clover flow was good in June and until July 7, then very little more until the fall flowers came, and that was light. I took off 1,000 pounds of honey, about three-fourths of it being extracted. Not nearly all is sold yet. Comb honey sells for 12½ cents, extracted for 10 cents; receptacles reserved in all cases. Several persons sent in their vessels and had them filled.

I have now 29 colonies in winter quarters, some in sheds packed with straw, and others with outside boxes packed with straw between the hive and box.

The American Bee Journal is just the thing for any one who keeps any bees, even one, two or three colonies. Every one who

## BEEES FOR SALE.

About 90 Colonies of Italians. Any one wanting to start an apiary cannot do better than to call on Dr. E. Gallup, Santa Ana, Calif., and examine the Bees before purchasing elsewhere. Double sets of Combs in Langstroth-Simplicity Hives, and warranted a superior lot of Bees for business. Correspondence solicited. **Dr. E. GALLUP,**  
SANTA ANA, Orange Co., CAL.



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**Bee-Keepers' Photograph.**—We have now on hand a limited number of excellent photographs of prominent bee-keepers—a number of pictures on one card. The likeness of 49 of them are shown on one of the photographs, and 121 on the other. We will send them, postpaid, for 30 cts. a card, mailing from the 121 kind first; then after they are all gone, we will send the 49 kind. So those who order first will get the most "faces" for their money. Send orders to the Bee Journal office.

likes to work with bees ought not to be without it.

Perhaps I will be pardoned for speaking here of the success of prohibition in this county, and also in the State. It is away ahead of its former record all over the State, for which I am glad, and I think most bee-keepers will be glad, for I believe they are, as a rule, temperance men and women, for we surely could not make much use of strong drink and be successful in the bee-business.

—GEO. McCULLOUGH.  
Page Co., Iowa, Dec. 2.

## A Beginner's Experience.

I find after taking the American Bee Journal on a trial subscription that it is on my list of "must-haves" for the coming year. There are so many helpful things in it, that are necessary to the bee-keeper's success, that no one should be without it if intending to keep bees.

The bee-business has not been a success in this section, owing to unfavorable weather. There was a great deal of fruit-bloom, but the bees could not get at it because of the cold, rainy weather; and there was no basswood bloom this year, but when clover came on there was a rush of honey for about 10 days, when another wet spell of three weeks ended it.

Probably many will be discouraged in consequence, and go out of the business, but I am in it to stay (D. V.), and have no reason to complain, because I got swarms to make up for loss of honey.

I started in 1895 with one colony, and now I have 14 good colonies, all tucked away in good condition for winter; and I had something over 100 pounds of good honey.

I have learned many things the past summer, and made a close acquaintance with my bees, and I think we have a mutual attachment for each other.

I am surprised to see how much intelligence bees show, and I have learned the different notes, so that I can tell how things are going in my little apiary by sounds that reach me from time to time; and that is a great help many times in preventing mischief among them.

MRS. C. A. BALL.  
Oneida Co., N. Y., Nov. 23.

## A Massachusetts Report.

In this dry country bees do not seem to do very well. Some of my colonies gathered no surplus this year, and others stored 25 or 28 pounds. As one colony look about the same as another, it's queer to me that one didn't do as well as another. I think I am up to the game. When these bees were transferred from box to frame hives, some of the queens were accidentally killed, and these are the very colonies that gave some surplus.

I have one colony in particular in a Cotton hive (or they called it his, but I don't) that hung out all summer, and did nothing; they will go into a dovetailed hive next spring and have a new queen.

Last spring was cold and rainy, and bees did nothing until late, when they put in some nice white honey, which I had no trouble in disposing of at 25 cents, and could have sold lots of it if I had had it. I think that bees will pay in this dry, sandy land. What we lack in quantity we make up in price.

I am thinking of sowing sweet clover. I tried some on a sidehill, and it grew 5 feet high, and the bees worked on it well.

My bees are hybrids, and I keep them in 8-frame dovetailed hives. I will use a dovetailed hive without the bottom-board, and it will go into a Bristol outside case, and then I will have the best hive out, only it costs. The old Bay State hive is the best I ever saw, with the exception of the surplus

part; but the brood-chamber "takes the cake"—easy to handle, warm, etc.

I hope to have better success next year with the bees.  
H. A. FISH.  
Plymouth Co., Mass., Nov. 15.

## Christmas and New Year's at Home.

In order that the public may have an opportunity of spending Christmas and New Year's at home, the Nickel Plate road will sell tickets to any point on their line at a fare and one-third for the round trip, tickets to be on sale Dec. 24th, 25th, 31st, and Jan. 1st, 1898. Good returning up to and including Jan. 4th.

Students by presenting the proper credentials can obtain tickets at same rate, good to return until Jan. 11th, 1898.

For full information call on or address **J. Y. CALAHAN, Gen'l. Agent, 111 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.**

36 H. THORNE, C. P. & T. A.

**Michigan.**—The Michigan Bee-keeper's Association will hold its annual convention Dec. 31 and Jan. 1, in the parlors of the Donevan House, in Mt. Pleasant, Mich. Reduced rates at the hotel, and probably on the railroads. A cordial invitation extended to all.  
Flint, Mich. W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Sec.

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## HONEY and BEESWAX

### MARKET QUOTATIONS.

**Chicago, Ill., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white 11 to 12c. No. 1, 10c.; fancy amber, 8 to 9c.; No. 1, 7c.; fancy dark, 7 to 8c.; No. 1 and mixed, 7c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4½ to 5c.; dark, 3½ to 4c. Beeswax, 26 to 27c.

All of these grades vary in quality and style of package, which makes it difficult to tell just what a certain colored honey will bring without knowing flavor and body thereof. Sales are of small amounts, and supply abundant. Beeswax is wanted at price quoted.

**San Francisco, Calif., Oct. 27.**—White comb, 1-lb., 7½ to 9½c.; amber, 4 to 6c. Extracted, white, 4½ to 4¾c.; light amber, 3½ to 3¾c.; dark tulle, 1¾ to 2¾c. Beeswax, fair to choice, 22 to 24c.

There is a tolerably firm market for choice to select water white, both comb and extracted, with not much of the same offering. In a small way on local account higher rates than are quotable are realized. Dark grades fail to receive any special attention, despite the fact that such are obtainable at low figures. There is no lack of demand for beeswax, and not much offering. At the same time, wholesale buyers refuse to operate at any advance on previous rates.

**Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 13.**—Fancy white, 13 to 14c.; No. 1, 12c.; fancy amber, 10c.; No. 1, 9c.; No. 1 dark, 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 5½c.; amber, 5c.; dark, 4 to 4½c. Beeswax, 27c.

Honey is arriving very freely; market is a little off. Beeswax is in good demand.

**Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 19.**—Trade is more quiet, and only the fanciest is moving satisfactorily at 10 to 11c.; other grades require pushing and cutting to move much, at from 9 to 6c., as to actual grade. Supplies are not large. Fancy can be easily placed. Extracted moves fairly well at 6 1-2 to 4c., as to color, etc.

**Albany, N. Y., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 13c.; No. 1, 12 to 12½c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 8 to 9c.; fancy dark, 8 to 8½c.; No. 1, 7½ to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4½ to 5c.; dark, 4 to 4½c.

Our honey market is active and stock moving off rapidly at quotations. Fancy white comb is scarce.

**St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; amber, 9 to 10c.; dark, 7 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5½ to 6c.; light amber, 4½ to 5c.; amber, 4 to 4½c. Beeswax, prime, 24 to 24½c.

Remand is rather light for this season of the year.

**Boston, Mass., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, in cartons, 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 12c.; fancy amber, 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 5 to 5½c. Beeswax, 28c.

No. 1 and fancy honey has sold well during the past 10 days, but off grades and light weight is going slowly. Beeswax is in good demand and but little here.

**Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 10c. No. 1 9 to 10c.; fancy dark, 9c.; No. 1, 8c. Extracted, white, 5½ to 6c.; amber, 5 to 5½c.; dark, 4 to 4½c. Beeswax, 22 to 25c.

Receipts of comb honey are large; extracted is light.

**Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 10½ to 12c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 9c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c.

Demand is good, prices are firm, and supply only moderate—best time so far this season to ship.

**New York, N. Y., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 9 to 9½c.; No. 1, 9c.; fancy dark, 8½c.; No. 1, 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 5½c.; amber, 4½ to 5c.; dark, 4c. Beeswax, 26 to 27c.

Our market does not show much activity and comb honey is moving off rather slowly. The receipts are large and the stock is accumulating. While choice grades of white are likely to find sale at present quotations, prices on off grades and buckwheat will have to be shaded in round lots. Southern in barrels is in good demand at 50c. a gallon, for average grade.

**Detroit, Mich., Nov. 9.**—Fancy white, 11 to 12c.; No. 1, 10 to 11c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 8 to 9c.; fancy dark, 7 to 8c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c.; amber, 4 to 5c. Beeswax, 25 to 26c.

**Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 9.**—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 12c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 8 to 9c.; fancy dark, 7 to 8c. Extracted, white, 6½c.; amber, 5½ to 6c. Beeswax, 28c.

**Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 12 to 13c.; No. 1, 11 to 12c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c.; No. 1, 8 to 9c. Extracted, white, 5½ to 6c.; amber, 4½ to 5½c.; dark, 4 to 4½c. Beeswax, 25 to 27c.

The market is in good condition. Receipts are liberal, demand fair, and values fairly sustained on finest grades of honey, both comb and extracted. We are looking for an increased consumption of honey this season, as the cost is not high, and is an unequalled substitute for butter to any or all who cannot afford to buy the best butter.

**Indianapolis, Ind., Nov. 8.**—Fancy white, 11 to 13c.; No. 1, 9 to 10c.; fancy amber, 9 to 10c. Extracted, white, 5 to 6c. Beeswax, 25c. Demand for fancy white comb honey and fancy white extracted is exceptionally good, while there is almost no demand for dark or amber comb or extracted honey.

**Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 7.**—Demand for comb honey has been good for the last few weeks and is fair for extracted. We quote the latter at 3 1-2 to 6c., and comb at 10 to 13c. for best white. Beeswax is in fair demand at 20 to 25c. for good to choice yellow.

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Most of whom Quote in this Journal.

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#### Buffalo, N. Y.

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CHAS. DADANT & SON.

#### Cleveland, Ohio.

A. B. WILLIAMS & Co., 80 & 82 Broadway.

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WM. A. SELSER, 10 Vine St.

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#### St. Louis, Mo.

WESTCOTT COM. CO., 213 Market St

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#### Milwaukee, Wis.

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#### Boston, Mass.

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#### Indianapolis, Ind.

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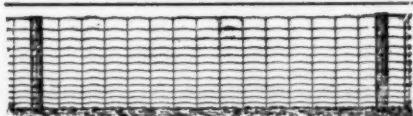
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 but, for the sake of getting it into new hands,  
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 Culture," a 50-ct. book of nearly 100 pages,  
 that gives briefly but clearly the best methods  
 of management from the time the bees are  
 put into the cellar in the fall until they are  
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 more lasting memento could a mother give to a son, a wife to a husband, a sister to a brother,  
 a lady to a gentleman, or vice versa, a son to a mother, a husband to a wife, a brother to a sister  
 or a gentleman to a lady—the knife having the name of the recipient on one side?

The accompanying cut gives a faint idea, but cannot fully convey an exact representa-  
 tion of this beautiful knife, as the "Novelty" must be seen to be appreciated.

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